

1. A connection assembly between a spinal implant rod and a vertebral anchor, the assembly comprising:
 - (a) a compressible ring, said compressible ring defining an aperture to receive a portion of the spinal implant rod;
 - (b) a clamp, said clamp defining a channel to hold said compressible ring, said clamp having first and second arms, said first arm having a first channel and said second arm having a second channel, the first channel being substantially aligned with the second channel; and
 - (c) a collet, said collet positioned inside the first and second channels of said clamp, said collet defining a socket to hold the vertebral anchor, said collet having a first end and a second end and an outside taper.
2. The connection assembly of claim 1 further including a nut, said nut threadably engaged to the first end of said collet.
3. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the second channel of said clamp has an internal taper in at least a portion of the second channel.
4. The connection assembly of claim 2, wherein the inside taper of the second arm of said clamp is complementary shaped to the outside taper of said collet.

5. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the compressible ring has at least a partially spherical exterior and the channel of said clamp has a substantially mating concave surface.
6. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the collet has three or more slots near the second end of said collet.
7. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the channel of said clamp has a sidewall and wherein at least a portion of the sidewall includes at least one edge to bear against the outside of said compressible ring.
8. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the compressible ring is split.
9. The connection assembly of claim 7, wherein the compressible ring has an exterior surface and wherein the compressible ring also includes a groove in the exterior surface.
10. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the taper of said collet widens near the second end of said collet.

exterior and the channel of said clamp has a substantially mating concave surface.

15. The connection assembly of claim 11, wherein the collet has three or more slots near the second end of said collet.
16. The connection assembly of claim 11, wherein the channel of said clamp has a sidewall and wherein at least a portion of the sidewall includes at least one edge to bear against the outside of said compressible ring.
17. The connection assembly of claim 11, wherein the compressible ring is split.
18. The connection assembly of claim 17, wherein the compressible ring has an exterior surface and wherein the compressible ring also includes a groove in the exterior surface.
19. The connection assembly of claim 11, wherein the taper of said collet widens near the second end of said collet.
20. The connection assembly of claim 11, wherein said clamp is a shackle.